

Application No. 10/742,892
Response to part of Paper No. 121308-2

Claim 23 (withdrawn-currently amended): A method of fabricating a spa shell comprising the steps of:

disposing a support member in a spa mold, the support member comprising one of a metal extrusion and a polymeric extrusion, the spa mold defining a shape of a spa shell;

with the mold, molding a polymeric layer around a portion of the support member, the polymeric layer comprising an acrylic layer and an ABS plastic layer bonded to the acrylic layer, the polymeric layer adopting the shape of the spa shell, the molded and shaped polymeric layer having a bottom and a side together defining a fluid support surface, the support member being integrally molded with the side; and

releasing the molded and shaped polymeric layer and the support member from the mold.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 23, wherein the molding step comprises the steps of heating the polymeric layer until pliable, and vacuum forming the pliable polymeric layer to the shape of the spa shell and over the support member.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 24, wherein the releasing step comprises the steps of allowing the polymeric layer to cool sufficiently to retain the shape of the spa shell, and removing the cooled spa shell from the mold.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 25, wherein the side comprises a substantially upright side wall and a rim extending from and surrounding the side wall, and the support member is integrally molded with the rim.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A spa kit comprising:

a spa shell molded in the shape of a spa and including:

- (i) a bottom and a side together defining a fluid support surface, the support member comprising one of a metal extrusion and a polymeric extrusion; and